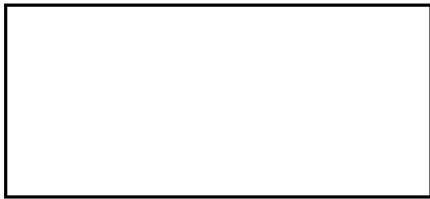


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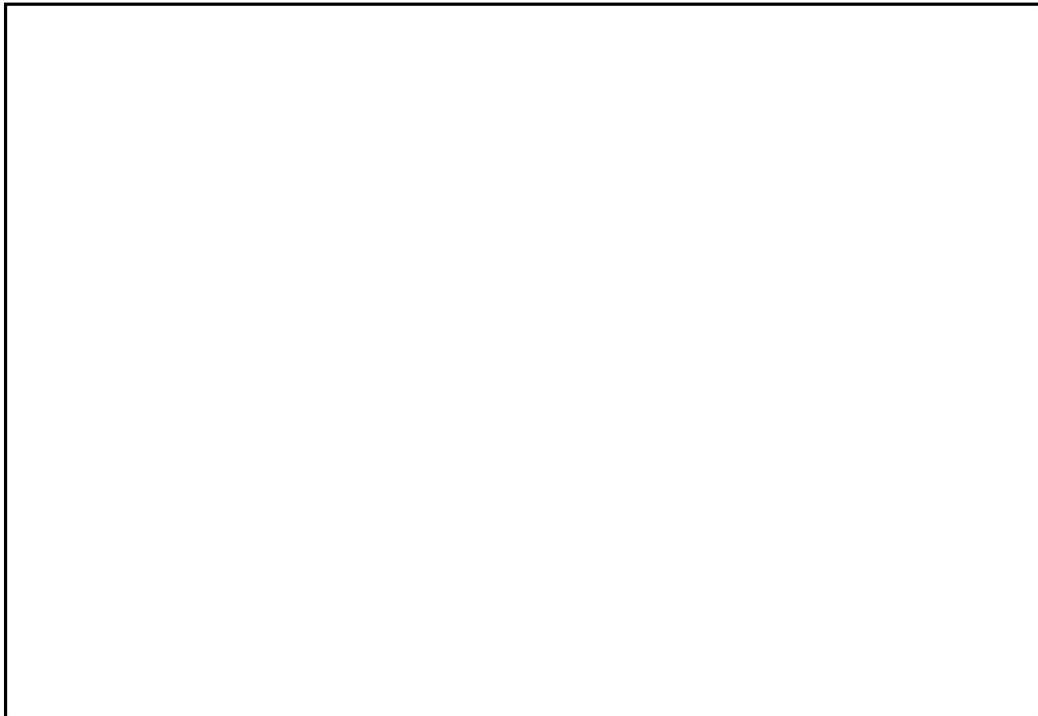
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3. EGYPT ADJUSTS TO SUEZ PILOT SHORTAGE

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The reduction of Suez Canal convoys on 15 August to one a day in each direction because of a pilot shortage is reducing the backlog of vessels awaiting passage, even though the shift in schedule added a few hours to the normal transit time, according to the American ambassador in Cairo. He reported on 18 August that the number of vessels passing through the canal was being maintained at a normal level.

The American naval attaché in Cairo reported on 17 August that eight new Egyptian pilots went to work the previous day, bringing the total number of Egyptian pilots hired since nationalization to 23 and increasing their number to 55. Egypt was previously reported as planning to assign 15 Egyptian naval officers to pilot duty. There are also reports that Nasr may employ West German pilots and technicians.

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4. NEHRU CONCERNED OVER INDIAN NATIONAL ELECTIONS

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Prime Minister Nehru is concerned over his party's prospects in the 1957 Indian national elections,

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Comment

the ruling Congress

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Party realizes it probably will have trouble obtaining a majority in the election. West Bengal, Andhra, Madras, and Bombay constitute about 40 percent of the total vote and their loss would threaten the Congress Party's position in the national government.

India's chronically disorganized leftist parties have already begun planning a united campaign, but the Congress Party, preoccupied with the states reorganization problem, has as yet made little preparation for the elections. However, Nehru's personal prestige may be able to regain the allegiance of some of the doubtful states before the elections.

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